

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### TG Fluid Systems USA

#### Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center

#### Lean Systems Bring Continuous Improvements to TG Fluid Systems

##### Client Profile:

TG Fluid Systems USA is located in Brighton, Michigan, and in the process of relocating to a 70,000 sq. ft. facility in the Brighton area. The Japanese-owned company designs and manufacturers custom thermoplastic tubing assemblies for automotive fuel, emission, brake, clutch and suspension systems. TG Fluid has over 250 employees.

##### Situation:

Formerly owned by Eagle-Picher industries, TG Fluid was purchased by Toyoda Gosei Co., LTD, in 2000. Under new ownership and experiencing consistent growth in business, TG Fluid identified the need to implement the Toyota Production System values through the company. TG Fluid was awarded an Economic Development Job Training (EDJT) Grant Job from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Director Bill Sleight contacted Norma LaVallee, the EDJT Program Director at the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to conduct some of the grant funded training.

##### Solution:

MMTC Lean specialists assisted TG Fluid in implementing the Toyota Production System values throughout the company. Lean Business Solutions allowed TG Fluid to align management personnel with the Lean ideology, and individual kaizen events and champion training allowed designated employees to see first hand the positive impact Lean methods have on internal processes. MMTC staff worked with TG Fluid material handlers to identify improvement targets. Results were immediate. "Our business has doubled every year for the last three years, which can be directly attributed to the tremendous capabilities of our people and the help we receive from TG Fluid designs and manufactures custom thermoplastic tubing assemblies for automotive fuel, emission, brake, clutch and suspension systems," said Scott Maly, President of TG Fluid. "Not only do we bring the knowledge of the Toyota Production System into our manufacturing, we also have world-class expertise in the technical areas of design and testing right here in Michigan."

##### Results:

- \* Reduced material handling travel time by 86 percent.
- \* installation of visual cue system with immediate view of areas requiring additional materials.
- \* Improved workspace organization.
- \* Reduced overstock.
- \* Increased shop floor space.
- \* Increased sales.
- \* Implemented new supplier shipment standards.

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\* Increased employment.

**Testimonial:**

"MMTC is a valuable Michigan resource. Not only should its funding continue, but its state and federal sponsors should look at increasing available funding so that MMTC continues to have a positive impact on the manufacturing industry and keeps Michigan jobs in Michigan."

Scott Maly, President